

56150319-2

REMARKS

This is a Preliminary Amendment to the above-identified U.S. Patent Application. The undersigned attorney would like to again thank the Examiner for the personal interview on March 31, 2004 attended by James David Jacobs and Anthony Craig Shurman. In accordance with the discussions during that interview, Applicant has amended independent claim 1 and canceled claims 51-55 without prejudice and disclaimer.

The Examiner put the Applicant on notice during the interview of U.S. Pat. No. 4,517,994 to Endelson. Pending further review of that reference, the Examiner indicated that he would allow claim 1 as amended herein and claims 2-50. Specifically, claim 1 has been amended by adding the phrase -- while the body is fully inserted between the wrapper and the cigarette package--, as requested by the Examiner. Also, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 51-55 have been cancelled, but are included in a continuation patent application concurrently filed herewith along with additional claims.

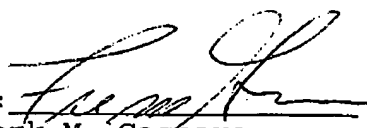
Accordingly, an early and favorable office action is hereby earnestly solicited. If a telephone interview would be of assistance in advancing prosecution of the subject application,

56150319-2

Examiner is requested to telephone the number provided below.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: April 5, 2004

By:   
Frank M. Gasparo  
Registration No. 44,700  
Baker & McKenzie  
805 Third Avenue  
New York, NY 10022  
Telephone (212) 751-5700  
Facsimile (212) 759-9133